



H.R. 3625 – To make permanent the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency.

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3625 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Joe Sestak (D-PA) on September 20, 2007. It was referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, but never considered.

H.R. 3625 is expected to be considered on the floor on September 25, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3625 provides a permanent extension of the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act.

It also includes a Sense of the Congress that states:

- the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 addresses the unique situations that active duty military personnel and other affected individuals may face in connection with their enrollment in postsecondary institutions and their Federal student loans; and
- the provisions authorized by such Act should be made permanent, thereby allowing the Secretary of Education to continue providing assistance to active duty service members and other affected individuals and their families.

BACKGROUND

In 2003, Rep. John Kline (R-MN) sponsored the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act, which was signed into law (P.L. 108-76) on August 18, 2003. The bill granted the Education Department the authority to waive certain provisions relating to student financial aid programs for active duty military and individuals affected by a national emergency. The law is meant to ensure that students are not adversely affected by their military service or a national emergency.

The law was reauthorized in 2005 by P.L. 109-78, which was also introduced by Rep. Kline (R-MN). This authority is set to expire on September 30, 2007.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored the bill.

STAFF CONTACT

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